

## REMARKS

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's continued allowance of claim 1-14. The Office Action, however, has tentatively rejected claim 15 (which was added in Applicant's last amendment). In this regard, the Office Action has rejected claim 15 under both 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Choi (US 5,878,092).

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended claim 15 to changed "the best" to "a best." Accordingly, the rejection has been accommodated and should be withdrawn.

In response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal for at least the following reasons. As amended herein, claim 15 recites:

- 15. A survivor path decoding apparatus for a Viterbi decoder with a constraint length of  $K$ , comprising:
  - a register-exchange network for receiving decision bits of states and generating decision vectors of survivor paths leading to said states at instant  $i$  according to said decision bits of said states from instant  $i-L$  to instant  $i$ , wherein said states are divided into said pairs of odd and even states, said decision vectors of said states are output every  $L$  iterations, and each of said decision vectors has a length of  $L$  bits; and
  - a trace-back unit for storing said decision vectors of said states and ***finding a global survivor path sequence by following said decision vectors back from a best state at instant  $i-L$ , such that  $L$  decoded bits are output every  $L$  iterations, wherein the best state is selected from local winner states every  $L$  iteration.***

(*Emphasis added*). Claim 15 patently defines over the cited art for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose the features emphasized above.

In this regard, neither Choi nor any cited art of record teaches or suggests the feature that “***the best state*** is selected from local winner states every  $L$  iteration,” as expressly recited in the claim 15. In addition, Choi fails to teach “*finding a global survivor path sequence by following said decision vectors back from a best state at instant  $i-L$ , such that  $L$  decoded bits are output every  $L$  iterations,*” as expressly recited in the claim 15. The Office Action referenced columns 1-2 of Choi as allegedly teaching  $L$  decoded bits are output every  $L$  iterations. Applicant submits, however, that there is simply no such teaching in Choi, nor is the context of that portion of Choi the same as what claim 15 defines. Furthermore, Fig. 1 of Choi do not show *the states are divided into the pairs of odd and even states*. It merely relevantly shows separate the paths in Fig.1 of Choi.

Further still, the amendment of claim 15 to specify that the best state is selected from local winner states every  $L$  iteration clearly defines claim 15 over the teachings of Choi. For at least these reasons, claim 15 defines over the cited art of record.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the further examination and allowance of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this submission. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,

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